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OUNDLE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1952.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

B. ROWORTH TURNER,
B.A., M.B., B.C. Cantab.

OUNDLE:
ALFRED KING AND SON, PRINTERS.

OUNDLE,
July, 1953.

To the Oundle Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to report on the health of the town during 1952.

The town stands at a height varying from 60 to 200 feet above sea-level.

It comprises an area of 2,075 acres, exclusive of that occupied by water.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population is 3,077.

There are 747 inhabited houses, according to the Rate Books at the end of 1952.

The Rateable Value is £19,505.

A Penny Rate produces £78·6.

The principal industry is a brewery: there is also a small boot factory.

There is an important Public School with over 600 resident scholars, a Grammar School, an Elementary and Oundle County Modern School.

Vital Statistics.

Births: 45.

Birth Rate=14.94 per 1000.

	Male.	Female.	
Live Births	24	21	
Legitimate	20	18	
Illegitimate	4	3	
Still born	0	2	
Infantile Death Rate	0	0	= 0 per 1000

Deaths. Total Deaths = 30.

Male.	Female.
17	13

Death Rate = 9.7 per 1000.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1 death.
Cancer	3 deaths.
Heart Diseases	8 deaths.

Infectious Diseases.

Measles	93
Pneumonia	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1
Glandular Tuberculosis	1

General Provision of Health Services.

Medical Officer of Health :

B. R. Turner, B.A., M.B., B.Ch.

Surveyor and Valuation Officers :

Mr. H. W. Bolton (deceased), M.Inst.M. & Cy.Eng., Cert.R.S.I.

Mr. S. D. Cox, M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.

District Nurses :

Nurse Missen, S.R.N., and Nurse Cates, S.R.N.

Rating and Valuation Officer : Mr. A. B. A. Wright.

Health Visitor : Miss Miller.

Ambulance : St. John Ambulance Association.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

The streets are well kept and clean.

WATER.—A good supply, but hard. The water is chlorinated and softened.

The pumping station is working at full capacity.

The filter beds are too small for the amount of water now used.

All analyses have been satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—These are both satisfactory, but the sewerage station should be larger. There is some pollution of the river at the sewerage outflow.

SHOPS.—See Surveyor's Report.

SWIMMING POOL.—The water is chlorinated but is not satisfactory. See Surveyor's Report.

The general health of the town has been excellent. The measles epidemic was extensive, but not very severe.

Factory Act.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—**Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	*Number on Register* (3)	*Number of*		
		Inspections (4)	*Written notices* (5)	*Occupiers prosecuted* (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	2	*nil*	*nil*
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	14	12	*nil*	*nil*
TOTAL	15	14	*nil*	*nil*

2.—Cases in which **Defects** were found :

Nil.

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111) :

Nil.

In April your Surveyor Mr. H. W. Bolton died after a long illness, very bravely borne, and after many years of good work.

Mr. S. D. Cox has been appointed Surveyor and I append his Report to this one.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
B. R. TURNER, B.A., M.B., B.Ch.

Oundle Urban District Council.
ANNUAL REPORT OF WATERWORKS ENGINEER, SURVEYOR, AND SANITARY INSPECTOR.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

DEAR SIR,

It is with pleasure that I submit my first annual report on the work carried out during the year 1952.

Highways.

During the year snow clearing, gritting and scavenging has been carried out as necessary on District and Classified Roads.

Minor improvements to roads and footpaths have been made, and the painting of all street name plates, lamp posts and signs completed.

Some 12,000 sq. yds. of District Roads were surface dressed during the year. Certain footpaths were surface dressed by direct labour and, since economy was achieved in this direction, it was possible to treat more footpaths than had hitherto been possible.

A new tarmacadam footpath was constructed across part of Ashton Meadows and a start made on the excavation for the resurfacing of Ashton Road.

53 old lime trees were removed by contract from Glapthorn Road, and 70 new various ornamental trees were planted by direct labour at greater distances apart on the same road and also Benefield Road.

After tree felling in the Parish Churchyard, it was necessary to carry out extensive repairs to the paths and pebble sides, part of the cost being recovered.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The sewage outfall works have been well maintained and 14 tons of mangolds were grown on the land under broad irrigation. I feel that I should report here that, if the system of broad irrigation is to continue, then consideration will have to be given to the purchase of more ground for this purpose and so enable the existing ground in use to be "rested" for longer periods.

The sewage disposal works and sewerage system are both at present overloaded, and I suggest that the Council should give serious thought to the complete overhaul of the sewerage system and also to the construction of a modern and more suitable sewage disposal works.

Surface water gullies have been cleaned and flushed regularly, catchpits emptied periodically and the main sewers flushed weekly throughout the year.

Recreation.

During the year swings, slides, a merry-go-round and seesaw were erected on the Memorial Recreation Field. A footpath with tarmacadam was also constructed across this field from the Council House Estate to New Road. The tennis court was well mtainained during the year.

Bathing.

It is with regret that the bathing pool had to be closed during the greater part of the bathing season due to the water being heavily polluted with coli. The water is obtained directly from the River Nene and even great quantities of chlorine were not sufficient to make the water fit for bathing.

Water Supply.

A pure and constant supply of water has been maintained during the year, but difficulty was experienced in maintaining the supply throughout July during the very dry weather.

The Waterworks are old and much of the plant and machinery obsolete and wasteful. When occasions for repair arise, replacements to the plant have to be made specially.

The water has been kept at a hardness of 12° (Clarke) during the year.

The routine work of skimming the filter beds, repairing mains, hydrants and stop taps, replacement of washers, etc. has continued throughout the year.

Regular bacteriological examinations of the town water have shown it to be a safe one for drinking purposes.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

During the early part of the year, a new mechanically propelled refuse vehicle was put into operation and the horse and refuse cart subsequently sold.

The old refuse tip in Ashton Road was closed and a new tip in Churchfield Road opened.

Salvage.

The collecting, sorting and baling of waste paper has continued throughout the year.

The following figures indicate the amounts of salvage sold during the twelve months :—

Paper	31 tons	3 cwt.	1 qr.
Metal		9 cwt.	1 qr.
Rags		2 cwt.	1¼ qr.

Food Inspection.

During the period under review, the following foodstuffs were examined and condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

Processed cheese	4 boxes
Cheese	27 lbs.
Cooked ham	1 tin (14 lbs. 9 ozs.)

Luncheon meats	252 tins (197½ lbs.)
Sardines	1 tin (4½ ozs.)
Peas	2 tins (12 lbs. 5 ozs.)
Jellied Veal	3 tins (18 lbs.)
Tomatoes	19 tins (41½ lbs.)
Grapefruit	11 tins (14½ lbs.)
Braised kidneys	1 tin (2¼ lbs.)
Baked beans	12 tins (12 lbs.)
Soup	1 tin (1 lb.)
Pineapple	1 tin (1½ lbs.))
Peaches	1 tin (1¼ lbs.)
Plums	1 tin (6½ lbs.)
Prunes	1 tin (6½ lbs.)
Condensed milk	16 tins (14½ lbs.)
Figs	4 lbs.
Ground rice	4 lbs.
Forequarter beef	64 lbs.
Pork sausages	27 lbs.
Beef sausages	28 lbs.
Meat faggots	36
Tomato sauce	2 bottles

Rodent Control.

181 inspections and visits have been made for treatments of premises infested with rats and mice. These figures include visits made for six "block treatments".

Housing.

Progress on the Council building schemes on Glapthorn Road during the year unfortunately cannot be said to be satisfactory, the lack of progress being brought about by the Contractor going into liquidation.

Three pairs of three bedroom type houses were commenced but left unfinished.

Civil Building.

Four licences for improvements, etc. to housing were issued during the year, and three licences were issued for the building of new houses.

Cemetery.

During the year, a great improvement has been made with the maintenance of the Cemetery, and I feel I must express appreciation of the excellent work carried out there by the Curator.

Visits and Inspections Made.

Complaints received and investigated	24
Verminous premises	2
Drainage inspections and tests	34
Van dwellings	2
Streams and watercourses	1
Vacant land, refuse dumps, etc.	76
Water sampling visits	15
Refuse accommodation	14
Water supply, service connections, leaks, etc.	87
Keeping of animals	7
Bathing pool	24
Houses—Public Health and Housing Acts	30
Housing applications investigated	16
Overcrowding	4
Council houses for repairs, etc.	130
Factories and workshops	14
Butchers' shops	7
Bakehouses	3
General food shops	1
Fried fish shops	4
Slaughterhouses	4
Public houses	1
Public and cattle markets	5
Food inspection visits	19
Cafes and restaurants	4
Ice cream premises	13
Grocers' shops	13
Greengrocers'	4
Dairy premises	6
Rats and mice infestations	29
Petroleum Acts	3
Pets Act	1
Miscellaneous visits	283
New buildings—Byelaw control	61
Interviews	131
Total	1,072

In addition to these figures, other unrecorded visits have been made in relation to water meter readings and attendance at Council and Committee Meetings.

S. D. COX, M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E.
M.S.I.A.